

Message Text

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ORIGIN ARA-03

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /004 R

66602

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APPROVED BY: ARA:GECHAFIN

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P 281510Z MAY 75

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY TOKYO PRIORITY

UNCLAS STATE 123496

FOR ASSISTANT SECRETARY ROGERS

FOLLOWING IS REPEAT LA PAZ'S 3643 ACTION SECSTATE, INFO BRASILIA,
MONTEVIDEO, BUENOS AIRES, ASUNCION, LIMA

QUOTE UNCLAS LA PAZ 3643

LIMA FOR FULLMER

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ECIN, XR, BL

SUBJ: LA PLATA BASIN INTEGRATION MEETING OPENS

1. SEVENTH ANNUAL MEETING OF FOREIGN MINISTERS OF LA PLATA
BASIN (CUENCA DEL PLATA) OPENED IN CENTRAL BOLIVIAN CITY OF
COCHABAMBA MAY 26. FOREIGN MINISTERS OF BOLIVIA, BRAZIL,
PARAGUAY, AND URUGUAY AND ARGENTINE JUSTICE MINISTER ANTONIO
BENITEZ PRESENT FOR INAUGURAL SESSION ADDRESS OF PRESIDENT
BANZER. PRESS RECORDED WITHIN QUOTATION MARKS THAT ARGENTINA
FOREIGN MINISTER VIGNES COULD NOT ATTEND FOR "REASONS OF HEALTH."

2. PRESIDENT BANZER'S SPEECH DWELT ON HIS FREQUENT THEME THAT
BOLIVIA IS "COUNTRY OF CONTACTS". INITIAL SPEECHES AND COMMENTS
OF VISITING DELEGATIONS AND LOCAL EDITORIAL COMMENT, ALL HAVE
PLAYED SIMILAR IDEA THAT CUENCA INTEGRATION MOVEMENT NOT MAKING
SUFFICIENT NOR EVEN VISIBLE PROGRESS.

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3. MAJOR SUBJECT OF INTEREST TO BOLIVIA WAS RESOLVED ON FIRST
DAY. IN HIS INAUGURAL SPEECH PARAGUAYAN FOREIGN MINISTER
SAPENA PASTOR GRACIOUSLY AND SURPRISINGLY CONCEDED THAT BOLIVIA
SHOULD BE SITE OF CUENCA'S PROJECT FUND.

SINCE PRIOR TO MEETING PARAGUAY WAS ONLY OTHER CANDIDATE FOR HEADQUARTERS SITING OF FUND OFFICE IN BOLIVIA (PROBABLY EITHER IN SANTA CRUZ OR TARIJA) WILL CERTAINLY BE APPROVED FORMALLY. FUND WILL BE USED TO FINANCE FEASIBILITY AND DESIGN STUDIES FOR PROJECTS WITHIN BASIN AND WILL BE SUPPORTED BY CONTRIBUTIONS OF US\$ 6,670,000 EACH OVER NEXT THREE YEARS BY ARGENTINA AND BRAZIL AND US\$ 2,220,000 EACH OVER TEN YEARS BY BOLIVIA, PARAGUAY, AND URUGAY.

4. EMBASSY WILL SEND SPOT REPORTS ON MOST IMPORTANT DEVELOPMENTS UNTIL CLOSE OF MEETING MAY 29. ANALYSIS WILL FOLLOW WHEN WE HAVE CHANCE TO DISCUSS RESULTS WITH PARTICIPANTS WHEN THEY RETURN TO LA PAZ. STEDMAN UNQUOTE. INGERSOLL

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<< END OF DOCUMENT >>

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 26 AUG 1999
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: MEETING REPORTS, MINISTERIAL MEETINGS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 28 MAY 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975STATE123496
Document Source: ADS
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: ARA/LA:GECHAFIN
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: n/a
Film Number: D750186-0585
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t197505104/baaaakxy.tel
Line Count: 70
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, TEXT ON MICROFILM
Office: ORIGIN ARA
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: CunninFX
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 16 SEP 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <16 Sep 2003 by MorefiRH>; APPROVED <23 JAN 2004 by CunninFX>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
05 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: N/A
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: <DBA CORRECTED> jms 971010
Subject: n/a
TAGS: ECIN, BL, XR
To: TOKYO
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006